## REMARKS

Drawings

The Office Action objected to the drawing figures as not showing the subject matter of claim 7.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Rejections under §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 – 10 under §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,595,552 to Mortari. The Office Action contends that element 20 of Mortari is a cam actuator and that element 14 is a cam carrier with at least one cam follower 15.

The coupling device described in Mortari has no cams, cam actuators, cam carriers or cam followers. Mortari simply uses a gear-driven, threaded shaft which engages an internally-threaded bushing ["bush"] to effect movement of the supporting plates.

> Finally, the movable plate 13 is provided with a threaded member for coupling to the head 15 of the shaft 14, which is constituted by an internally threaded bush 39 which is contained, with a slight play for orientation, within a cover-shaped support 40 rigidly coupled to the movable plate 13. [col. 3; lines 10-15]
>
> When the two threaded elements 15 and 39 are close one another, the actuator 24 is deactivated and the motor 20 is activated, turning the shaft 14, which screws onto the bush 39, and allowing the connection of the connectors 11. [col. 3; lines 26-29]

Each of claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 – 10 requires a cam carrier having at least one cam follower. Since these elements are not found in the coupling device described in Mortari, none of these claims is anticipated by Mortari.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 6 under §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,805,382 to Jennings. The Office Action contends that, in regard to claim 1, "components 22 and 24 work to translate rotational motion of 22 into longitudinal motion of plate 12, making 22 and 24 a gear train."

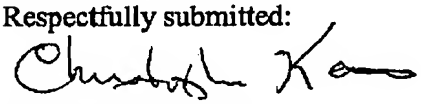
There is no gear or gear train in the flowline connector described in Jennings. A "gear" is defined as "a toothed wheel" [Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed.]. There is no toothed wheel in the device described in Jennings. Element 22 in Jennings is a jack screw. Element 24 is a jack nut.

> Jack screws 22 extend from an upper end of frame 12 and are rotatably secured in landing bases 16. The upper ends of jack screws 22 extend through jack nuts 24 rigidly attached to the upper surface of frame 12. In the preferred embodiment, each arm 14 has one of the landing bases 16 and one of the jack screws 22. Each jack screw 22 secures to landing base 16 and extends upward though an upper end of arm 14 through jack nut 24 attached to an upper surface of arm 14 as shown in FIG. 2. Jack screws 22 have polygonal upper ends. [col. 2; lines 56-65]

Lacking a gear train, Jennings cannot anticipate claim 1 (as amended). Claim 6 has been canceled.

For the reasons stated above, it is submitted that claims 1 – 4 and 9 – 18 are allowable over the cited references. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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